



ARENA REPORT



P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547

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Volume V, Number 6

November 23, 1992

Half of you will receive this issue after "Survivor Series" while the other half gets it either prior to or the day of. It'll be interesting to see how Curt Hennig looks. Don't forget, he's been out of the ring for over a year. He could be very rusty. I also couldn't help but notice another "perfect" aspect about Hennig during those close-ups on Prime Time. He has a "perfect" double chin. It could be (or was) a real good match if they only could keep "Chico" Ramon out of the ring. In my eyes the guy got the most undeserved push of the year...hold that thought, I just popped TBS on. How could I forget E.W. Okay, Ramon got the second most undeserved push.

Arena Report is published bi-weekly at the cost of \$1.00 per issue. All renewals, letters, and match results (along with fave live match of 1992 for the annual) can be sent to Arena Report, P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547. Let's journey to WCW's best drawing city.

LIVE REPORT

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
Friday, November 13, 1992
Jacksonville Coliseum
Jacksonville, FL

Opening Match

Erik Watts beat Diamond Dallas Page with an Oklahoma roll in 9:21. Page has really improved to the point of being watchable. Erik's body could meld right into Dustin Rhodes' they're that similar. Too bad he doesn't have the talent Dustin has. But in being fair, Dustin wasn't so hot starting out either. At least they put Erik in the opener. * $\frac{1}{4}$

2nd Match

Tony Atlas made John Peterson submit with the full nelson in 6:51. They actually made this a competitive match when they should have had Atlas squash him. The less said about Atlas the better. -*

3rd Match

Van Hammer pinned Vinnie Vegas in 8:51. I give credit to Hammer for trying but there is no way he's ready for the push they are going to give him. Vegas missed a charge in the corner and Hammer rolled him up. *

Tag Team Match

Ricky Steamboat & Shane Douglas beat Brian Pillman & Steve Austin in 16:39. Austin did a hilarious opening bit handing Shane his robe and telling him all he's good for is to carry his stuff to the locker room. Timing of all four was super. As Shane and Pillman brawled on the floor, Austin was going for a superplex on Ricky but Steamboat pushed him off and hit him with a flying bodypress. All four worked super. ****

U.S. Heavyweight Championship

Rick Rude beat Kensuke Sasaki via DQ in 25:02. Great heat when Rude did the mic bit. Hiro Matsuda must have been shaking his head watching Sasaki match Rude's bump and grind act. They make these Japanese work too much of an American style which they're not use to and it takes away from their usual super style. Madusa was at ringside and couldn't keep a straight face as her and Doug Dellinger who was at the table kept busting up over something. "Some fan" cracked her facade by yelling, "Hey Madusa, does Greg really have a hammer." (in reference to her new live-in Greg Valentine.)

Rude sat on Sasaki with a chinlock for about five minutes because he was enjoying playing to these two rats in the front row. Are you getting the feeling I didn't enjoy this bout? After a ref bump out of the ring, Madusa jumped on Sasaki's back. He flipped her over. Rude came off the top rope with the belt but Kensuke hit him in the midsection. He then leveled Rick with the belt and the second ref scored the pinfall. Couldn't believe the pop Sasaki got when they thought he won the belt. First ref came in to reverse the decision and DQ Kensuke. ** for the last few minutes. Time to put a stop to the Rude-Jap matches. But please don't put all the blame on Rude.

6th Match-Falls Count Anywhere

Sting defeated Cactus Jack in 17:36. Incredible!!!! That's the only word to describe it. Jack took Jake Roberts place (Sting-Jake wasn't falls count anywhere stip so bout would have been lucky to hit *) and blew the roof off with his performance. Hats off to the Stinger too. They brawled back to the dressing room, on the stage, all over. Sting was clobbering Cactus with a garbage can. But the supporting "star" of this bout was the ringside table. I'll try to explain these spots as best as possible. Cactus set up the table in the corner. He was beating on Sting in the opposite corner and went to whip him in but Sting reversed it. Sting then came for a Stinger splash but Jack moved. Smaaack!!! Into the table Sting went. Finish was painful to watch. Sting suplexed Cactus back in the ring right onto the table which was on its legs in mid-ring. Sting then placed Cactus on the table stomach down and went to the top rope. He did a big splash onto Jack and the table split into two with a metal rod protruding through the top. It's a good thing it didn't pierce Jack's stomach. Sting then scored the pin. ****½

WCW World Heavyweight Championship

Ron Simmons beat Barbarian with a shoulderblock off the top rope in 9:40. How they could follow the Sting-Cactus bout with this snoozer is beyond me. I know he's the world champion but Sting is still the #1 face and that won't change soon no matter how hard they try with Simmons. Another thing, why does Barbie get return matches when Simmons pinned him clean at Havoc. A horrible bout. Dud

NOTES

2,450 Once again Jacksonville outdrew everywhere for the past few months with ~~4,000~~ in attendance.....They announced that the annual WCW Xmas night show will be here since the Omni has "Starrcade". Great Muta, Jushin Liger, and Masa Chomo were all announced for the card.....They did the announcement at the start of the card that Jake Roberts was no longer with WCW. It was basically met with indifference.....Talked with a WCW official after the card and commented on the situation of putting the Sting-Cactus bout before the main event. The night after in St. Pete they reversed that order. (Not taking credit mind you).Dusty Rhodes and Magnum TA were there. Watts is making Dusty work the road more often.....Magnum was in the bar which probably was why only 5 of the guys were there and the only 2 mingling with each other were Sasaki and Douglas.....Overall a very enjoyable show due to Sting-Jack and the tag bout.

RAMBLINGS

Last week's "Clash of the Champions" should have been sub-titled, "This Is What's Wrong With WCW". Let's go through my Clash notes from top to bottom. The sign that the fan held up behind Jim Ross and Jesse at the beginning of the show said it all. "Bring Back Flair"...I loved the angle with Pillman and Armstrong but it took what would have probably been the best bout of the card away from us...If the first five minutes of the tag bout with Eaton and Watts didn't prove Erik isn't ready for the mammoth push, nothing will... They take the most over submission move in Japan (STF) and give it to one of the greenest guys in this country. Unreal...Scott Hudson called the finish of that bout as he figured since Arn submitted to it at the tapings Monday night, Bobby would quit at the Clash...The boxing match was ridiculous although the knockout punch that Flamingo hit Badd with looked great...WOW... How many buys do you think WCW got for "Starrcade" with that tag bout they announced? Cactus Jack & Johnny B. Badd vs. Dan Spivey & Van Hammer. Poor Jack...Too Cold Scorpio?? I'll admit, I had no idea who this guy was so I'm watching this from a casual fan perspective and saying this guy stinks. He missed a few moves almost killing himself on one of them. His finisher was tremendous though. After finding out he works Lucha for UWA in Mexico as Black Scorpio, you can't fault him too much as the guys he worked with aren't use to working Lucha. As a matter of fact, Atlas and Barbarian aren't use to working at all...If I were Bobby Fulton and Tommy Rogers, I'd be embarrassed that WCW stole my gimmick and music to push two like Tom Zenk and Johnny Gunn...Madusa and Paul E. wasn't even good comedy. High point was the replay

chubby with dark brown hair, sitting next to Billy Robinson...why its... THE MAN! A YOUNG, NATURE BOY! Yes, seated to the left of Robinson is a young Ric Flair. Just hangin', having a good time and worrying how much longer it'll be before Virgil Runnels will appear in his life and try and sap any dignity his wrestling career once had.

Speaking of all Virg, he and partner Dick "I'm really not Dustin's dad" Murdoch have the best scene in the movie though, as they get into a bar fight with a couple of locals and some Japanese hoods (Don't ask me where they came from-Gagne just threw the scene in) Anyhow, "Joe Bob sez-check it out...."

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CABLE WRESTLING RATINGS (Week Ending Nov. 18)

<u>Show</u>	<u>Rating/Share</u>	<u>Total Homes</u>	<u>Year Ago</u>
CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS (11/18)	3.2/4.8	1.93 million	4.3/6.1
WCW SATURDAY NIGHT (11/14)	2.4/4.7	1.44 million	3.2/6.0
WWF PRIME TIME (11/16)	2.0/2.9	1.2 million	2.3/3.4
WCW POWER HOUR (11/14)	1.8/7.2	1.08 million	2.2/8.8
WCW MAIN EVENT (11/15)	1.8/4.0	1.08 million	2.5/4.2
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (11/15)	1.3/3.2	780,000	2.0/5.4

NOTES ON THE NUMBERS

***Everything down from year-ago figures by the following totals: CLASH (26%), WCW SAT. NIGHT (25%), PRIME TIME (13%), POWER HOUR (18%), MAIN EVENT (28%), ALL-AMERICAN (35%). Ironically, the same weekend last year, every show scored at least a 2.0 and POWER HOUR had scored its all-time high for a Saturday morning slot.

***ALL-AMERICAN rating and share were its all-time lows, as well as in total homes.

***CLASH quarter-hour breakdowns were not yet available but the 3.2/4.8 was the second-lowest ever (June's 2.8/4.4 for the NWA tag tournament was the lowest). CLASH did face THE JACKSONS: AN AMERICAN DREAM (Part II), which scored a 23.6/39 and will probably be the top-rated show of any kind during the sweeps.

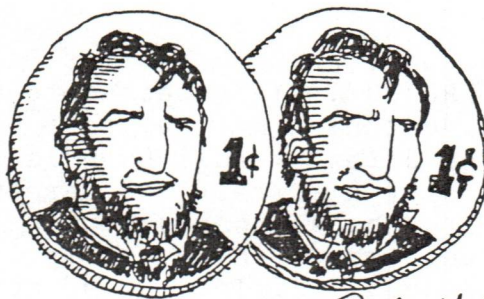
***SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT on 11/7 scored a 6.1/9, its lowest-ever rating/share, and was only seen in 3.92 million homes, another all-time low. SNME lost 37% from its lead-in (COPS, 9.8) and underperformed the previous week's 9 p.m. show (CODE 3, 6.4).

***If there is a positive note, WCW SATURDAY NIGHT, in the 2 1/2 hour special, registered its highest numbers in nearly six months and posted its fourth straight week of increasing ratings.

***Next week: quarter-hour breakdowns on CLASH and the Thursday night replay ratings.

IT'S

MY

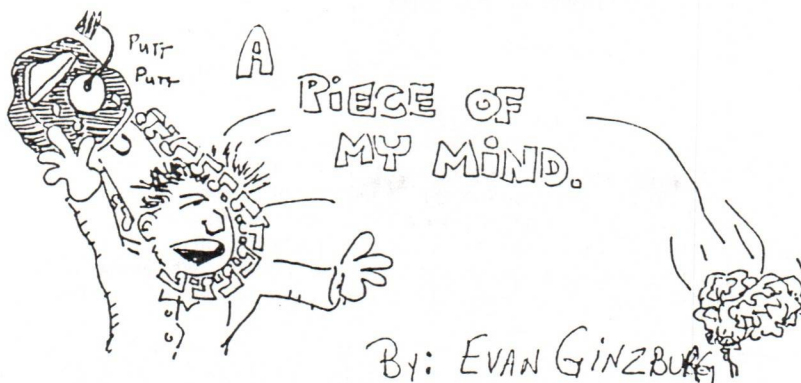


By: MIKE TERRY

For better or for worse, away we go on an incredible journey through my muddled mind.....flashback: Wednesday, November 18, 1992. After having spent the evening home alone watching *Home Improvement*, *Doogie Howser* and the best episode I've seen so far of *Seinfeld*, I went to bed at 10:30--late for me. I'm not really a "morning person," but through necessity, I masquerade as one, since I need to be at work by 7:30 most mornings. I'm beginning to drift off to la-la land, when all of a sudden I shot straight up in bed: "Oh sh**!!! I forgot to watch the Clash!!" Of course I attribute this to the infirmities of age and a mind which is more like a sieve than a steel trap these days. Luckily I noted in the TV Guide that the repeat would air Thursday night at 10:05. As I write this, I've seen the first half of the show. Overall--yeah, it's fine. I'm enjoying it. Of course, I also have a column to fill, and while I realize you'll probably read much more probing and meaningful analyses from my peers, here are some random thoughts:

I could hear hardcores around the country sigh when robbed of a meaningful encounter between Brian Pillman and Brad Armstrong. Interesting gimmick, although Stevie Wonder could have seen it coming.....Scotty: lose the rouge. Why do I smell another Adrian Adonis.....great slogan on Page & Vegas' t-shirts: "Scotty Flamingo--one punch bingoo.".....Flamingo and Badd was one of the better wrestling/boxing bouts I've seen.....I must confess that I did NOT call the Slam Jam number to hear more about this upcoming record, which from all indications won't be released, it'll have to escape. Where did they produce the thing, in somebody's basement?.....The Zenk-Gunn video was really spiffy, but the music sucked. No doubt part of the Slam Jam album.....I think they did a tremendous job of getting the various feuds and issues over through the recaps and video montages. Obviously, with ratings blowing the way they are, they must take advantage of at least the potential for increased viewership during prime time to recycle the audience to the weekly shows.....but at the same time, there was Paul Orndorff all of a sudden with no explanation. And why did Simmons promo an upcoming match with Paul when we still didn't even know he was back?.....Madusa was as good as could be expected for the type of encounter she had. She and Paul both did well overcoming the general apathy and confusion generated by their abortive attempt to accomplish God knows what with the Mike Thor deal.....and further comments will have to wait until I see the rest of the show.

Spare change: the WWF's video wall is about the best innovation in the past several years. They really are creative with it.....after all the years Tom Brandi has been around wrestling, shouldn't he be better than he is? Maybe he'll rise to the level of his competition in WCW. Or maybe this gunn's chambers are empty.....Separated at birth: Seiji Sakaguchi and Jack Webb.....on those Prime Time interviews conducted supposedly from local affiliates around the country, isn't it interesting that all the local studios have the same 2 backdrops?.....aren't Rude's skills diminishing as his muscles swell?.....I've come to the conclusion that Teddy Long is WCW's version of Larry "Bud" Melman.....and I'll put my 2-cents on the line in predicting that Bill Watts will be back in the ring within 6 months. And I wouldn't be surprised to see Dusty Rhodes in there with him. An 8-man tag comes to mind. Keep your Maalox handy. And until next month: love it or shove it! It's just my 2-cents.



Arena Reportees, in my never-ending battle to try to do something different with this column, this go round I'm presenting a transcription of a recent radio broadcast I did on WBAI-FM (99.5 FM) in NY. The program is called "Light Show an arts program (host Fred GeoBold feels wrestling is "performance art!"), and I'm on each Friday nite at 3 AM (insomniac alert!). After doing a straight "John Arezzi" type news segment the first go-round, I told Fred that just wasn't me, and to please let me go in a more tongue in cheek/sarcastic vein. Well, here it is, for your consideration. And by the way, as an early Christmas present, I extend the freebie offer to AR readers who never tried my sheet as well! So without further ado, here's a somewhat different "Piece of My Mind"...

Hello, once again WBAI listeners, this is Evan Ginzburg, editor of the world's only wrestling history and nostalgia monthly newsletter, Wrestling- Then & Now, with this week's wrestling update. For those of you cynics who believe nothing in life is free, get out your pens and pencils now, because I'm going to give you my address at the end of the broadcast for a free sample copy...

In the giving the people their money's worth department, last Saturday night's main-event at Wayne Valley High School in Wayne N.J., wins the prize hands down. When legendary Terry Funk, stepped into the ring with Hotstuff Eddie Gilbert, expectations ran high. However, with a small crowd of only a few hundred in attendance, nobody imagined they were about to see two guys give 110%, but they got just that. In a Texas Death, no stopping for blood, no DQ, fall counts anywhere in the building, no stopping until one person could no longer continue dream match, these two bloody warriors hit each other with chairs, cans, tables, sticks, and even threw in a legit hold or two during a remarkable 12 fall, 27 minute classic. When the smoke cleared, Funk's hand was held high in victory. Hardcore fans in the audience gave it a unanimous perfect 5 star rating, and match of the year nod, while the local kiddies showed their approval by following the action around the arena, joyfully dipping their programs into pools of blood for souvenirs. The little hellspawns left the arena exhausted and happy, as did yours truly. I was also relieved that I had left my current girlfriend, a psycho-therapist, at home,

as she probably would not have recognized the crazed gleam in my eye as I sped about the building following the wild action, happier than I've been in quite some time. Kudos to promoter Dennis Coraluzzo, who's from the old school, sending everyone home with a smile, and also to undercard wrestlers Chris Candido, Sabu, Damion Stone and Tommy Cairo who once again proved you don't have to be household names to put on some great action. In a time when big name wrestlers sleepwalk from arena to arena, this was a rare

Speaking of sleepwalkers, what do you do when you have a card booked at a major arena, and half the wrestlers leave the promotion after the show's been incessantly plugged on TV for several weeks? Easy! Just change the entire line-up, make sure the match-ups are just as nightmarish on paper, and hope the mutants don't notice. That's exactly what happened when Ultimate Warrior, The Mountie, and Davey Boy Smith, scheduled for the top three matches at next Saturday's Madison Square Garden card were suddenly on the

outs with the World Wrestling Federation. Replacing the Warrior in his match against Nailz, is another cartoon character in The Undertaker. Davey Boy's gone and Big Bossman's in against the walking racial stereotype, Kamala, and Bob Backlund now meets Rick Martell rather than the horrendous Mountie. It all just goes to prove that when the circus rolls into town, it just doesn't matter whose under the clown make-up...

For those historians in the audience, the before-mentioned Terry Funk held the National Wrestling Alliance from December 10, 1975 to February 6, 1977, defeating Jack Brisco and losing to Harley Race in a remarkable 424 day reign. This day in history- Wild Bill Longson defeated Lou Thesz for the NWA title on Nov. 21, 1947.

Upcoming Pay Per Views include the WWF's Survivor Series on Nov. 28 with what should be a classic match-up between Brett Hart & Sean Michaels, and WCW's Starrcade '92 Battlebowl on Dec. 28. WCW's last big PPV, Halloween Havoc was a surprising commercial if not critical success. Both major promotions continue to present an incongruous combination of matches appealing to both hardcores and kiddies that just never seem to mesh. The WWF is reportedly running a dream double- main-event of Ric-Flair vs. Brett Hart & Sean Michaels-Marty Janetty throughout the arenas in December, bouts which seem almost out-of-place when put on the same show with embarrassments like The Repo Man, Papa Shango, The Bushwackers and too many others to name...

A must find on video- Rhino's Breakfast with Blassie- featuring the late Andy Kaufman sitting down to dine with the wrestling legend, discussing the mat game and their various attitudes and neuroses. As they alienate all eating around them, the film takes on a more and more surreal feel. A recent New York Newday piece said Kaufman was "infatuated" with wrestling, neglecting his acting career and pursuing his obsession, in several bizarre in-ring angles. Subsequently, at the time of his death, he was "washed up" in show biz. So let that be a lesson to you wrestling fanatics out there!

This has been Evan Ginzburg. For a free copy of Wrestling-Then & Now, featuring the best in nostalgia clippings, interviews, and features, send a SASE to PO Box 471, Oakland Gardens Station, Flushing, NY 11364. And if you like our little wrestling segment, tell a friend- why the heck would anyone want to be sleeping at this hour when they can be hearing the latest goings-ons in the wacky world of wrestling?

And always remember, kids, don't try those holds at home...

ARENA REPORT 1992 ANNUAL

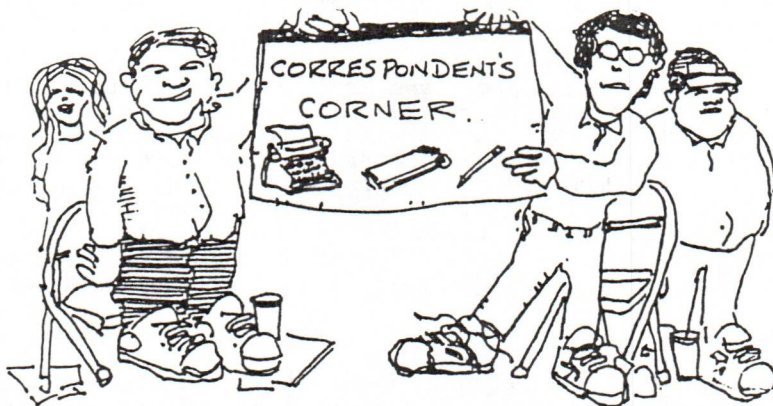
Don't miss the biggest and best AR Annual yet. Hear from some of the best newsletters writers in wrestling today like Steve Beverly, Butch Bigelow, Jeff Bowdren, Evan Ginzburg, Greg Goode, Mike Gunter, Scott Hudson, Klon, Mike Lano, Rodney Leighton, Dave Meltzer, K.C. O'Connor, Steve Prazak, Marianne Ryan, Jeff Siegel, Mike Terry, and Jeff Zinger. The annual will be 60-70 pages in length and spiral bound for easy reading. Columns, articles, news, results, letters, top ten lists, cartoons by John Hitchcock, reader profiles, and your favorite live bout of 1992 all in this annual. Don't delay. Send \$9.00 per annual to Arena Report, P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795-2547.

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National Guard Armory (ALL SOUTH) Douglasville, GA
Correspondent: Steve Prazak

November 8, 1992

1) Tim Strong beat Gentleman Rodney Cowan. 2) Ex-Convicy Snake over Iron Mike Curevich. 3) Tommy Rich beat Steve Lawler in a Loser Must Retire/Street Fight when Rich pinned Stevan DeTruth. 4) Jailhouse Rocker & Glen The Teaser double DQ with Lee Thomas & Scott Studd. ATT: 119

Waynesville Junior High (SEWA) Waynesville, NC
Correspondent: Danny Parris

November 8, 1992

1) SEWA Jr. champ Jimmy Bryant beat Dr. X in 5:22. * 2) Bad Boy Bob Baker beat Executioner #1 to win SEWA title. Dud 3) Jay Eagle and Cherokee Renegade went to a 20 minute draw. * $\frac{1}{2}$ Terminators Rex and Spike then attacked Renegade and Eagle turned face by making the save. 4) T.J. Maverick beat Randy Sledge in 8:46. Dud 5) K.C. Thunder over Vladimir Koloff in 14:20. * 6) Jay Eagle, Renegade, & Georgia Bulldog beat Terminators and Maverick in 15:32. * 7) Jimmy Valiant beat Ivan Koloff in a street fight in 7:53. ATT: 240

Memorial Hall (ALL STAR) Cleethorpen, England
Correspondent: Dave Wright

November 10, 1992

1) Bobby Bold Eagle beat Ally the Wicked in 12:46 via DQ when Ally continued to low blow Eagle. Dud 2) Steve Thompson beat Pete Lapac in 20:12 with a dropkick. ** 3) Marty Jones beat Soldier Boy Prince with a DDT in 16:26. After the pin, the Mongolian Mauler (SMW) ran in and ate a coke can as he challenged Jones. ** $\frac{1}{2}$ 4) Danny Collins beat Richie Brooks with a flying body press from the top rope in 23:13. Good scientific bout. *** $\frac{1}{2}$ ATT: 400

Bayfront Center (WCW) St. Petersburg, FL
Correspondent: Paul Spiegel

November 14, 1992

1) Vinnie Vegas & Diamond Dallas Page lost to Erik Watts & Van Hammer. 2) Tony Atlas pinned John Peterson. 3) Steve Austin and Ricky Steamboat went to a draw. 4) Shane Douglas defeated Brian Pillman. 5) Rick Rude beat Kensuke Sasaki via DQ. 6) Ron Simmons downed the Barbarian. 7) Sting over Cactus Jack in a falls count anywhere bout. ATT: 980

Wayne Valley High School (WWA) Wayne, NJ
Correspondent: Steve Bickinson

November 14, 1992

1) Jimmy Shoulders beat Kodiak Bear. * 2) Ed The Razor over Gus the Greek Terror. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 3) Tommy Cairo downed Damian Stone. *** $\frac{1}{4}$ 4) Chris Candido beat Sabu via DQ. *** $\frac{1}{2}$ 5) Ray Odyssey defeated The Mauler. * $\frac{1}{4}$ 6) Cheetah Kid, Al the Sledgehammer, & Spider beat Chris Evans, Tank, & Boy Gone Bad in 23:00. 7) Terry Funk beat Eddie Gilbert in a ***** match of the year candidate. Funk won in the 12th fall when ref Scott Dickinson counted Gilbert out on the mat. ATT: 300



Labor of Love

I hate to say it, but all of this negativity about World Championship Wrestling is really getting to me. Almost to the point of the Titangate stuff earlier in the year. (ouch!!!) I'm beginning to think "is the bad stuff

the only things the sheets care about and want to speak their minds on?" Thus my attempt to look for the positives. Yes, Halloween Havoc sucked. But this past weekend's WCW show was hot. Beach Blast was good, as were some shows a few months back under Watts- let's hope Starrcade can be a bit different than these past few PPVs from WCW. Complaining about the bad things in wrestling makes me loathe putting out a sheet, but I guess the good stuff makes it worthwhile. As many have said (especially those who've recently folded their own sheets), doing a newsletter is really a "labor of love", you've got to get through the hard parts in wrestling itself as well as publishing one.

Dave Prazak
Lisle, IL

RL- Dave puts out Outside Interference bi-weekly at \$6.00 for four issues. His sheet contains mainly news and a slew of columnists. Write to Dave at 2278 Hidden Creek Ct., Lisle, IL 60532.

Clash of Champions

The end is near if something isn't done soon. Got any ideas on how I can get Watts' job since he can't do it? No one else can either so I feel an outside influence could benefit this company.

I'd rate the Clash at a 4. The tag match "saved" it. Of course, Sasaki, Eaton, and Anderson were wasted. No wonder they can't keep an audience when all their favorites keep getting jobbed out.

Bobby Yates
Randleman, NC

Thumbs slightly up (6 out of 10). Was the Battle of the Sexes booking as we go? What a mess and consusing for softcore fans. There seemed to be twice as much hype and interviews and commercials than actual Watts wrestling product. Let's get a voice coach for Harley and Vader. Three cheers though for getting rid of Robbie "who?" for Black Scorpio, WCW's bargain basement Liger. Finally, someone new who looks halfway decent. Thankfully, the top rope rule was recinded in time for his highspots.

Wasn't it toooo obvious that Windham was going to be "insta-heel" or "Heel in a Hurry" when he entered the ring unshaven and with greasy hair? Not much of a transition from last Saturday when both Dustin and Windham were acting slightly heelish, agreeing Steamboat was a "mere" Windham replacement when he and Dustin won the belts exactly one year ago. This angle, like the Dangerous Alliance thing from two months ago, had a poor transition and looked like it was left on a shelf of file until someone figured out how to resolve it-even more obvious by the fact they need a killer heel fast, with Jake joining the celebs at Betty Ford's.

As usual, the average fan was bombarded. There's too much going on, but the Clash once again was better than the average WCW PPV. I mean we have the Clash, the upcoming triplets of confusion: Starrcade: Battle Bowl: The Lethal Lottery, Slam Jam, the Jesse Ventura Invitational, the King of Cable, the WCW cool stuff catalogue ads, the WCW fan club ads, the 1-900ads, the 1-900 get in the ring ads. The state of WCW is "Land of Confusion". Or is that business as usual.

Mike Lano
San Francisco, CA

(continued from page 3)

Starr-Berto, Valentine-Big V....Was about to start a contest for you to bet who "lost" first between the 2 Feds billed undefeateds, Tatanka and Erik Watts. But Watts lost a bout to Rude (thankfully) that will air on World Wide soon. So all bets are off.....I didn't think SNME was too bad. Michaels-Bulldog had a *** $\frac{1}{2}$ match. Bret Hart's video was the best I've seen in a while. Not sure how effective it'll be getting him over though. I think he's a lame duck for Luger anyway.....WWF should get quite interesting next year when Luger and the Steiners start. I don't see either Arn or Bobby Eaton here even if WCW doesn't keep them. WCW making a big play though to keep Arn Anderson..... That will do it for now. Remember that if you haven't ordered your annual yet you have until 12/26 to do so. Also send in your fave live match of the year with a brief description. Next issue I'll have more details on the specific columns by the writers mentioned in the order form on page 8. We'll see you in two weeks. Take care and have a good Turkey Day weekend.

See ya,

Ron

of Paul smacking Mike Thor with the phone...Was anyone surprised that Rude and Sting went to a draw? How predictable were the judges as well. For a match that I thought would save this show, I found myself falling asleep. Is it me or is Rude getting ultra-lazy?...The unification tag bout wasn't as expected either. But the Barry turn was done well. Loved those stiff chair shots in the locker room but Steamboat probably didn't enjoy them as it legit busted his head open...Thumbs down by a landslide. I can't even pick a best match on this card.....Onto other stuff.....There was a story in the 11/22 Orlando Sentinel on the house Hulk Hogan is building in Tampa Bay. He and his wife paid 2 million for the 2.3 acre land. The house will be 12,000 sq. feet.....WCW will be holding a World Wide taping in Louisville on 12/9. Believe it or not the reason they are running it there is because they think Erik Watts will be over big time.....USWF in Brockton, MA on 11/21 saw Designated Hitter beat Candy Man, Star Warrior over Rocky Raymond, Jaime West beat Sheena, Bulldozer over Executioner, Richard Byrne defeated Tony Ulyses, and Warlord went to a double count out with Nikolai Volkoff. Yeesh. They would have to pay me to watch that match.....12/5 in Wilmington, MA has Jimmy Snuka vs. Demolition Ax on top.....WCW ready to commit suicide again with a Clash booked in Milwaukee on 1/13.....WCW will return to St. Louis but it won't be at the arena which exclusively leases it to WWF. It'll be in a 2,500 high school gym on 1/22.....11/21 matinee for WCW in St. Joe, MO saw Watts beat Page, Atlas defeat Bagwell, Austin down Armstrong with the stun gun, Shane Douglas over Pillman, Rick Rude beat Dustin Rhodes, and Simmons and Scorpio over Barbarian & Vader. Crowd was around 1,000.....That night in Kansas City before 1,300 saw Bagwell over Page, Watts beat Vegas with STF, Scorpio over Atlas, Pillman beat Armstrong, Dustin over Austin due to Pillman's interference backfiring and then Windham joins in to triple team Rhodes until Shane, Steamboat, and Armstrong make the save, Simmons over Barbie, and Douglas & Steamboat upend Vader and Rude when Steamboat hit Rude with a flying bodypress.Kevin Sullivan and Woman appeared on Pro Wrestling Weekly on 11/21. When Shannon Rose was talking about a Raul Mata vs. Superstar main event for a Suncoast Pro show on 11/27, Sullivan yelled out, "Superstar? That's Bob Cook"....IWF in Plant City on 11/20 saw Java Ruuk (Tony Mella) beat Buck Quartermain (Sharpe trainee), Lance Bolton (Mike Inognito) over Sean Curran, Nuclear Assassin retained the IWF TV title beating Chris Proctor, Long Riders defeated Thunder & Lightning via DQ, Greg Valentine & Denny Brown beat The Dynamite Express.....Lots of people speculating after Jim Ross's acknowledgement on "WCW Saturday Night" about Paul Orndorff's feud in Smoky Mountain with Ronnie Garvin. Two sources I spoke with had two different opinions. One said it was just Jim Ross kissing Jim Cornette's butt. The other said there will be a minor relationship between SMW and WCW. Orndorff will not be in full time but work a few dates plus Starrcade. It was going to be Orndorff bs. Garvin in the Omni but now he'll just be in Battle Bowl.....In a matter related to that, Turner Broadcasting suggested to Watts to raid Cornette of his top talent but Watts refused saying they need the smaller territories to build up younger guys. Looks like WCW is doing that on their own to me.....Had to laugh at Michael Hayes comment on Sat. Night show during Sallinger and Pierce's squash match, "The fans here are still in shock over what happened with Barry and Dustin at the Clash." That's interesting since the show was taped two days before the Clash.....Thanks to those Atlanta Bad Boys I had to tear the label off my recent issue of the Shinimumake Post. It was addressed to Ron Lapdance Lemieux. Always trying to ruin my squeaky clean image.....Nasty Boys appeared on Regis and Kathie Lee last week.....Randy Savage was on Tampa's Ron and Ron radio show last Friday promoting his bout with Ramon at the Sun Dome.....11/14 in Langhorne, PA had Patera vs. Volkoff and Honkey-Orndorff. Patera just about done as he needs hip replacement surgery. Wonder if it was caused by the same condition of Billy Graham.....Paul Spiegel has a few front row seats left at the Bayfront Center for WCW on 12/26. Chono, Muta, and Liger are all on the card. The house shows that week could be better than Starrcade. Jeff Bowdren, Klon, and myself will be making the trip. If interested call Paul at (813)876-3371.....11/19 in Tampa for ICWA saw Southern Posse beat Storm Trooper and Tommy Starr, Masked Gigolo (Jim Backlund) over Mark Starr, and Rico Frederico beat Lou Perez via DQ.....On 11/21 for a free show (800 people) saw Tommy Starr over Kevin Sullivan in a cage match although Kevin beat the hell out of Starr.....Bill Watts was bashing the newsletters on the WCW Hotline the last two weeks. Once a month Watts will do an interview segment on the hotline with Steve Beverly.....Cliff Anderson on a tour of England.....There could be a court battle over the two major groups wrestling albums. Both are titled "Slam Jam". Could be interesting.....You can tell the linkage between the Apter mags and WCW Magazine. This month's cover has a picture of Brian Pillman saying, "The fans can go to hell." I remember when Tommy Rich first turned heel years ago, Inside Wrestling had the same cover except a picture of Rich.....Bill Otten was out shooting pictures of Madusa at St. Pete Beach on 11/14 in preparation for her calendar.....CFWF in Winter Haven on 11/13 in front of 234 saw Cuban Assassin go to a DDQ with Caribbean Kid Berto, Al Hardiman put Buddy Valentine to sleep, Cody Wade pinned Big V, and Lou Perez last to John Force when he couldn't pin him in allotted 20 minute time.....They return 12/18 with Perez-Force, Hardiman-Wade,

(continued on page 10)



SHOOTKICK

by Jeff Bowdren

Well, now that I've had time to reflect on the debacle known as "Halloween Havoc", I'm proud to announce our shootkick award for this issue goes to Dusty Rhodes & Bill Watts. This now makes Bill a 3 time winner and a strong candidate for our 1st annual Shootkick of the Year award. Congrats, Bill and hey! Way to go! (remember when we didn't think it couldn't possibly be any worse than Ole?) Dusty wins not only for an incredibly lackluster booking performance, but also again adding to his stature (girth?) as possibly the most overrated booker in wrestling history. When Ronald Reagan was president, he was known as "the teflon president", because even with all the scandals, mistakes and bonehead decisions he made, it never seemed to effect the perception that he was a great president. Well, I guess that makes Dusty the "teflon booker". Didn't we used to think this guy was a great booker, yo so many years ago? Well Virgil-what have you done for me lately? Eric Krol pointed out in a recent Torch all the problems that WCW has had in the last two years with Dusty as booker. The company has been like a ship without a navigator. Let's face facts: Dusty the Booker reeks. He has to accept blame for the last 3 matches on the P.P.V. The booker's responsibility is to develop the storyline for the matches and in the above mentioned matches, Dusty failed miserably. Watts on the other hand, has the responsibility of overseeing the booker. Well if that's the case, Bill should have fired Dusty and acknowledged the disaster, instead of subscribing to the old boy network and blame the failure on something or someone else. Rumor has it that 2 weeks before the P.P.V., Dusty went on vacation-without giving Bill the finishes to the P.P.V. or telling TBS the lineup for the November Clash, which they needed so they could place advertisements. The handwriting is on the wall Bill, and it says "Dump Dusty". But in the meantime, if you need a re-education in how to put together a t.v. show, I'll sell you a few of my Smokey Mountain tapes that your former employee Jim Cornette put together. Do you know what the best thing is about Smokey Mountain, Bill? Its that everyone, and I mean everyone, has some sort of role within the promotion. Guys like Paul Orndorff, Rock & Roll Express, Robert Fuller & Jimmy Golden, and even Ronnie Garvin, all guys that the hardcores had written off years ago, are entertaining here. Why? Because Cornette has given them a specific role and has spelled it out to his t.v. audience. Its something as simple as that. Take a look at your ratings Bill. It certainly couldn't hurt to add to the watchability of your shows.

Oh yeah, and one more thing. If you keep forcing Erik down the throats of the fans, the same hardcores that got you that job will do all we can to see that you lose it.

Have you ever seen the movie "The Wrestler". Its the one from around 1971 or 72 that stars Verne Gagne, Billy Robinson & Ed Asner. If your any kind of film buff, especially a fan of "bad cinema", then this film is a must. Its hilariously awful. The plot, what there is of one, has Asner as the "gruff yet lovable" promoter in Minneapolis. His champion, "Mike Bullard" (Gagne) is old and bald and doesn't appeal to young fans (sort of a case of art imitating life here, huh?) Asner wants to replace "Bullard" with young and exciting "Billy Taylor" (Robinson-executive producer Gagne obviously spent a great deal of time thinking up the names of these two characters) in the upcoming "Super Bowl of Wrestling", which will include the "Eastern Champion", Pedro Morales and the "Western Champion", Dory Funk Jr. The plot just meanders here and there, looking for a storyline (sort of like a WCW booking meeting) and near the end of the film they throw in this side splitting sub-plot were Asner and his secretary fall in love. Ed Asner romantically involved with anyone turns my stomach. The main purpose of the movie (besides trying to convince the movie viewer that Gagne was America's greatest athlete since Jim Thorpe) was to give all his wrestling buddies a cameo in the movie. Among those seen are Vince McMahon Sr., Ray Stevens, Eddie & Mike Graham, Wilbur Snyder, Don Muraco, Lord Blears and of course beloved son Greggie appears as a ref in the wrestling scenes. The biggest surprise was during a scene where Verne (excuse me "Mike") has all the rookies from his wrestling camp over for dinner-lets see, there's a young Jim Brunzell, and hey! Who's the other guy? Kind of